



#9/a
1-14-04

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited
with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an
envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box
1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,
on December 18, 2003

Roberta A. Winzeler

(Name)
Roberta A. Winzeler

(Signature)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 09/915,188 Confirmation No. : 5259
Applicant : JOHN C. DUTE', et al.
Filed : July 25, 2001
TC/A.U. : 2121
Examiner : AARON C. PEREZ-DAPLE
Docket No. : 1-16437
Customer No. : 001678

RECEIVED

DEC 30 2003

Technology Center 2100

December 18, 2003

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Honorable Sir:

Responsive to the Examiner's Office Action of September 23, 2003, applicants have
carefully studied the references cited by the Examiner and the Examiner's comments relative
thereto.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3
of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 18 of this paper.